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Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 000515-141

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

) BOX: RCE

Urban WIDLUND

) Group Art Unit: 3761

Application No.: 09/194,700

) Examiner: M. Kidwell

Filed: March 4, 1999

)

For: ABSORBENT ARTICLE HAVING  
IMPROVED SURFACE  
PROPERTIES

)

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

**REPLY & AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action mailed September 3, 2002, and the Advisory Actions mailed January 10, 2003 and January 15, 2003, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel Claims 18 and 21.

Please amend claims 1, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 22 as follows:

I  
1. (Four Times Amended) Absorbent article for maintaining mucous membranes of a user moist, the absorbent article comprising:

a liquid-pervious surface layer,

a liquid-impervious surface layer, and